

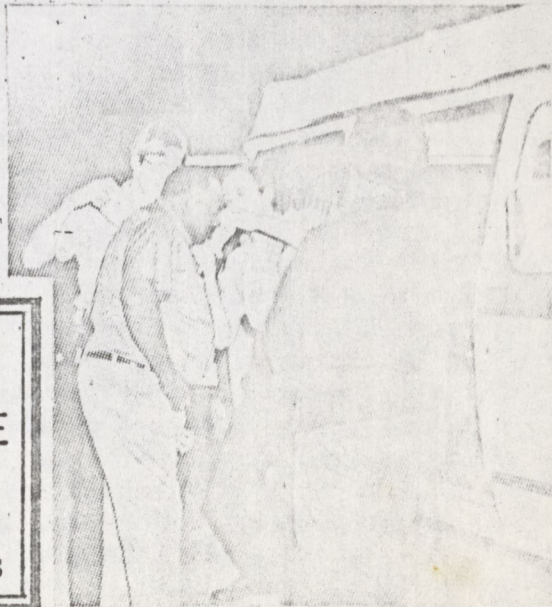
— INYO HOLIDAY

Memorial Day

INYO'S TOURISTS BROUGHT
A MIXTURE OF MERRIMENT,
MULES, MISHAPS AND MONEY

I "PROMOTION" IS WHAT IT'S all about, then "Mule Days" as public business venture scored heavily. The business groups sponsoring the annual Bishop display of long-eared quadruped excellence - chief among these Bishop's energetic Chamber of Commerce - began on Monday to express their elation, and to count their chips. "Mule Days" and the Memorial Day weekend were for the business interests a braying success. The chamber's manager, Denton Sonke, was modestly kicking up his heels, to

Loose cows on a busy highway became formidable obstacles to night traffic. Virgil Evans of Bishop escaped this overturn. At right, owners of a motor-home get roadside first-aid. They, too, hit a cow.



The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

GENERAL CIRCULATION
Published weekly

Have your say
on election day

Week of
May 29, 1978

— THE COUNTY

A COSTLY "PLAN"

WHAT STARTED AS A ROUTINE
UPDATE OF THE GENERAL PLAN
MAY NOW RUN TO \$100,000

SOME MONTHS BACK, THE STAFF OF INYO PLANNING Department went privately to several members of the board of supervisors to express their concern about the county's dormant General Plan. They also took stock of their own talents and qualifications, and presented to some of the board members a program to push through to completion a General Plan. The cost, under their proposal, amounted to little more than then-current department expenditures, and a minor reshuffling of staff members with perhaps one staff addition.

The planning secretary, accordingly, was recommended for a promotion to planning assistant, although the supervisors, advised by the county administrator and the planning director, adamantly refused to negotiate a salary increase for the assistant that would have amounted to about \$100 per month. The assistant-appointee, Kenney Scruggs (now a planner in private employment), resigned amid controversy created by her request for \$100 a month. She claimed sexism was involved.

Since that time the county administration and the supervisors, along with Planning Director Douglas Sherburne, have appeared at a loss to move the General Plan forward.

And it appears now that the entire project, when and if it does occur, may cost the county an estimated \$100,000 or more. As one observer put it: "They could have had the whole

(See COSTLY PLAN, Page 11)

say the least, about a possible gross take of more than \$2 million - a hefty input after two bleak years of drought-restricted traffic. He made his estimate (figures of which may run higher) based on "last year's show," which netted the county about \$1.9 million in receipts.

And in spite of the down-south media's dogged refusal to give yearly coverage to the event, the crowds were bigger - and maybe richer - than ever. The elation crossed county lines as the run-off went northward to Mammoth Lakes where a crowd of up to 5000 was counted.

(See MEMORIAL DAYS on Page 2)

— NEWS BRIEFS

GLIDDEN, HEMLER GET SUPPORT

THE DEPUTIES NAME THEIR CHOICES;
THE LEAGUE QUESTIONS DEVELOPMENTS;
A SILENT GRAND JURY; NO METERS YET

EXERTING AGAIN ITS 30-MEMBER POLITICAL muscle, the Inyo County Deputy Sheriff's Association endorsed last week two more candidates for county office - neither of them incumbents. Already the deputy sheriffs have voiced publicly their choice of Sheriff Floyd Barton over political aspirant Jeannie Harness, and their interests now move toward Bishop Engineer Roger Glidden for supervisor, District 3, and John Hemler, a radio news reporter, as supervisor of District 1. In their endorsement of candidates the deputies have come under a predictable criticism from some voters who may be turned off by ICDSA public entrance into politics. The two new endorsements were seen as open criticism of the two incumbent super-

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 2)

MEMORIAL DAYS, Continued

In spite of the fact that the new pari-mutuel mule betting law has been passed in the legislature, the mule racing days won't get underway until July. But there were races alright as the mule owners displayed the mettle of their animals - and probably at least a few hundred dollars changed hands privately.

All-in-all a noisy, but not unattractive (as thousands would agree) show for the three-day holiday. Said Sonke: "Last year we figured, conservatively, that Mule Days visitors spent \$1.9 million in local businesses, and this year it seems there were even more people. It means a lot to local businesses." Asked about the television coverage that usually increases interest in such celebrations, statewide, Sonke was un-miffed. "KCRL, the Reno Channel 4, came down for the events. Actually, we don't have to do too much advertising. The word has gotten around."

There is little doubt in anyone's minds that the Mule Days celebration has, in its nine years as a county attraction, taken its place with the county's other notable "days": Opening of fishing season, the ski season, etc. "It is," agreed the chamber manager, "an important part of the business year." And how, Sonke was asked, does the picture look for the 1978 season? "This year, there was no real slow time, with the good snow season. We've had a sound climate throughout the year, particularly in the Bishop area. But in the past two years, Mule Days became very necessary."

The Memorial Day celebration was not without its cost-in problems, but these were seen as minor and few. There were traffic mishaps, including a couple near Lone Pine, still another near the Bishop Creek Campground. And a motorcyclist was injured in a spill on Highway 6.

Bishop's police and other law enforcement agencies had their headaches. Fights broke out at some campgrounds over parking and camping space as city dwellers furiously demanded their chance for a bit of wide open spaces.

And there was a heavy and somber side to the festivities, along with a lighter side as celebrants expressed in sometimes macabre ways. A Beaumont man, 68-years old, was arrested for child molestation; nine other people were taken in for drunkenness, a remarkably low figure, the cops think, for such a crowd.

And one young mule fancier, 21-year-old Betty Jean Howell, exuberantly rode her mule into the Fairgrounds crowds, scattering the onlookers and offending more than a few. Officers charged her with malicious mischief after their questions were met with a reported belligerence. "She kicked over the furniture in the sub-station," said an officer.

Further north, the spin-off crowds at Mammoth were happily notified they'll be skiing until the Fourth of July. The Mammoth resort closed down some of its chair lifts after the Memorial crowds went home, but others are to remain open, manned by the 300-or-so seasonal employees who apparently will carry home paychecks far beyond the usual closing dates. In spite of hot weather, about 90 inches of snow remain on the Mammoth slopes, "with no rocks showing yet." Only a few layoffs have been reported so far.

Somewhere lost in the national and local Memorial Days melange and mania, there was a serious note as a devoted handful, most of these the veterans of American wars dating back to 1918, took note of what the real "day" was all about in the first place: the remembrance of fallen comrades.

There were brief observances, flag ceremonies and bugles, in most of the county's communities. And more than a few turned away from the fun and games as the wistful strains of "Taps" met the air.

Somewhere, somebody walked among the graves to pause by the marker with a loved one's name inscribed on it. And once again, far from the crowd, a bright flower showed its color in the hot weekend sun. The mules and the money and the merriment seemed for a time very, very far away.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

visors. Why are the deputies down on London and Muth? Association President Tom Gonzales replied only that the deputies made their selection according to the answers provided by the candidates to some "key questions" asked by the deputies, "that and the basic qualifications." One of the pertinent queries (a perennial question in the minds of courthouse observers): "What are your feelings on the current board's relationship with the county administrator's office? ...Does the CAO have too much power, or is it acceptable?" Both Glidden and Hemler answered, in effect, that the "power" issue was uppermost - an answer the deputies could relate to. Gonzales provided some degree of elaboration, explaining that the supervisors turn to CAO John K. Smith for his opinion... "and then vote! They're voting his decisions, you might say." Do sheriff's office salaries have anything to do with the endorsements? "It wasn't even discussed," he said. Gonzales said after the officers looked at all the answers he called them for a poll. The percentage of deputies in favor of Glidden and Hemler were said to be a muscle-flexing 80%.

HOW MUCH WATER HAS ACTUALLY BEEN DRAINED from the underground reservoir beneath the Owens Valley? Inyo's County Hydrologist Phil Williams isn't saying yet, but he suggests that "there was a drop in the level in the past few years," due probably to the DWP underground pumping program since 1970. Williams, at work at San Francisco, did say that his findings should be included in a study begun by the Department of Water Resources on Inyo County and the Department of Water and Power. Will he soon release his findings? "I'll wait," says Williams, "until it's all done."

SOME MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS feel that the sudden burgeoning of construction that began with completion of the Bishop sewer project may be getting out of hand. Some of them would like to see all development restricted until the county's sluggishly-moving Planning Department can complete Inyo's required "General Plan." But that's not likely to happen soon and the developers are anxious to get moving. One of them, Bishop's Gordon Holmes, had applied for a rezoning - protested by the League - but

(More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 6)

IT HAS FINALLY HAPPENED: A few of Inyo's senior citizens, like their frightened counterparts in the cities, say they're not going out for a walk at night anymore. One Bishop Senior, Mary Simpson, said she and other Seniors she knows "won't go out in the evenings anymore," even though she and her friends enjoyed after-sundown strolls in the parks. She says the teenagers are frightening and intimidating and harassing older people. Recalling recent incidences of rape, and another in which an 80-year-old woman was knocked down by a kid, she says, "I think the names of those children and the names of their parents should be printed. I read in a Tennessee paper that they started publishing the names of juvenile criminals and that it was amazing how quickly the vandalism ceased." She adds that she won't stop until she "finds out how "those juvenile laws got on the books in California." I might add more: that a number of newsmen, and even a few judges, are beginning to think in the same way, at least in some cases. We might suggest that Ms. Simpson and her friends pass the word to our law enforcement agencies, the district attorney, the probation department, and the judges. We're ready.



BENNETT KESSLER

LAUREN ELDER'S BOOK, *And I Alone Survived* (Congdon Books/ E.P. Dutton Publishers) is finally on the bookstands at \$8.95. Already carried in a national magazine, *McCall's*, it's also been condensed and published in the current issue of *Reader's Digest*. A number of Inyo Countians are in disagreement with just what happened as she walked into Independence looking for help after a plane crash in the Sierra. In the condensation Elder concedes, rightly, that she "could imagine the impression my appearance must have created." And by her own account, she asked not for help for her injuries - but for a motel room. In any case, help presented itself within minutes. Whatever her view, we know the people involved in the incident; they're not the kind to turn away an injured person, if they know about it.

INCREASING CONCERN in some areas about Inyo's burgeoning "pools." Football, baseball, basketball, etc. They seem innocent enough, but the winnings and prizes - and, we might add, the profits - are getting an "organized" look about them. One favorite football pool has had its origin in the courthouse itself. Another one is rumored (so far unverified) to have set up a prize of \$10,000 and was organized in a popular Bishop restaurant. All the games - and there are a number of them - come under the penal code section 337A; so serious was the situation in the courthouse, that the county administrator was driven, some months back, to issue a memorandum to county employees. It provided little more than a good laugh and the pools went right on.

THE INTERAGENCY VISITOR'S CENTER is developing a case of *angst* and suggests that when you go to Death Valley you take your English-German dictionary with you. Center Director Frank

Mossbacher says "fifty percent of the visitors in Death Valley are from Germany." The stifling summer heat leaves *ein Rhineland* undaunted. Says one visitor: "Dere iss no Deat' Valley in Chermanny, zo dat's where ve vant to go." Well, *Deutschland über Deat' Vallé*, as I always say!

"THEY HAD AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY," says a Los Angeles top-ranking media man and special features producer, "Inyo County really blew it." He was talking about what he called "the heightened consciousness of water" pervasive in the minds of all here and over the state during the two drought years. "Where do your officials think the water battle is being waged?" he went on. "About the only thing that piques the DWP and MWD moguls is in the political field and reports in the press down here. Remember, this is where Bradley and the council get their own news." Our source is one of the producers who plans to work on a documentary film for Public Broadcasting System sometime this summer. We've heard similar statements from other LA editors and producers who, once they get the facts, are not afraid to report them.

THE *Los Angeles Times* is finally taking a hard look at the water interests, but in our view they're studying the wrong side of the mountain. A top *Times* staffer, Ellen Stern Harris, the consumer reporter, is head of a study committee to look into "MWD's power block and subsidies to big agricultural interests in Orange County and Northern San Diego County...and the big water rate breaks for those interests."

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: Bishop's Art and Dolly Schoen. Art is still bemoaning that red paint job done by a down-south contractor. It "lasted about a year," and cost something like nine grand. Northern Inyo's dine-and-dance crowd are reminded not to judge a book - or a roadhouse - by its cover. Art and Dolly hosted a dinner party over the weekend for some other VPP's: Dale and Gladys Hensley who were celebrating the 90th birthday of her mother, Effie Kasl who flew over from Hilo for the occasion. A family affair with relatives from all over. Now that's what I call a lively Senior Citizen.

ANOTHER COUNTY RESIGNATION: That of Claude Howe, from the Inyo County Probation Department. Reports have it (not verified) that he plans to go into the trucking business. Maybe more on that later. Meanwhile, Probation Officer John Lee says he's hoping to get another probation worker.

IN TRYING TO IMPROVE THE LOOKS - and decrease the costs - of this modest publication, I ran into an interesting item: If you are in any way associated with the media, or if your business in any way deals with "public opinion" (even the *greeting card business!*) you cannot get a loan for equipment (such as presses, in our case) from the Small Business Administration. Come to think of it, a very good idea.

KEEPING THE LOWEST PROFILE of any political (See B.K.'s NOTES, Page 4)

B.K.'s NOTES, Continued

candidate we know is Donald Lynch, 47, Inyo's only hopeful for the office of County Constable. He wants to replace Lone Pine's Jess Covington who held the job for years and who has retired. It's no gravy-train; the constable earns an annual stipend of something like a couple of hundred dollars. When we called over the weekend, Lynch had his mind on other than constabulary matters. Apparently thinking that a friend was calling, he answered "No kittens yet!" *How's that again?* Lynch explains that the family cat, *Mrs. Patches*, "looks like a football and is due to deliver anytime." Apparently her condition has been a point of interest for friends and neighbors. Now that's what I call *savoir faire*; he'll get my vote - and *Mdme. Patches* gets my best wishes.

MEMORIAL DAY VISITORS CAMPING OUT EVERYWHERE and concerned (justifiably so) about rattlesnakes. The old-timers hereabouts say this is a banner year for the scaley beasties, thanks to the rains. Some near misses near Tuttle Creek campground and other watered desert campsites. Watch it, that old jazz about the rattler giving warning before he strikes is a lot of herpetological malarkey. And don't join the amateurs who "carry a gun to kill snakes with." Except for maybe a shotgun, firearms are the most inefficient weapon against snakes. If you

feel you must kill them (and, unfortunately, that may be best, thanks to kids at campgrounds) try a big rock. Bam! If you can avoid it, then leave them be; they're part of a natural balance to things.

A HANDFUL OF DRUNKS always causing problems at Fort Independence Reservation - and costing the Rescue unit a lot in time and money. The local unit is regularly called to the same address where three constant drinkers are always hurt or ill - up to 10 calls a year. Such cases cost the county something like \$400 a year, not counting man-hours and hospitalization when necessary. Assistant Volunteer Chief says he and his men - and the sheriff's officers - get weary of these calls but "you never know when it will be the real thing." Sometimes, the "three or four drunks just want a ride to Lone Pine. It would be unfortunate if somebody in Independence had a heart attack while we're hauling these cases."

AN UNHAPPY NOTE TO END ON, but cheer up; after all we've got the county alcohol program to count on.....And may the news in your day be good news....every day.

- Sincerely,

BK



EAGLE

(Advertisement)

Eagle does not buy for one minute the scare tactics employed by the academic elitists to manipulate the unsuspecting teachers into an hysterical movement in opposing the California Proposition 13, on June 6th. These Ivy League elitists who extort tax money from the taxpayers - and some labor leaders - have been engaged in preying upon the teachers' fears of job loss. It is their tool in pushing the teachers to brainwash the innocent minds of youth. As a result, school students are going home, helter-skelter lobbying their parents to vote against Proposition 13.

You, the reader, have a "people's wisdom." You will probably make a right and proper decision in spite of this ever-growing welfarish state where, more and more, people find themselves kowtowing before the signers of their paychecks: the local, state and federal governments.

Humanity has been granted certain rights and "to secure those rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed." Government is - or should be - a tool of the people; a servant to regulate, supervise, and safeguard the pleasures of the majority. Government was NEVER intended to be itself an enterprising industry that tolerates a greedy teacher elite that puts its sticky hands into the pockets of the unknowing taxpayer - and then teaches his children little or nothing of real value.

"Tenureship!" No self-respecting teacher wants to accept tenureship; the guarantee of salary even if there is no work available; even if they become inefficient educators; even if they abuse humanity by the brain-washing of innocent and trusting minds. Nay! Every true educator wants to be judged on his merits, his contribution to humanity. If he does not, he then becomes as abusive as his general - the almighty State that vampirizes the people's blood!

Community Service Award: The ladies helping out at the Bishop Creative Workshop. They do a fine job.

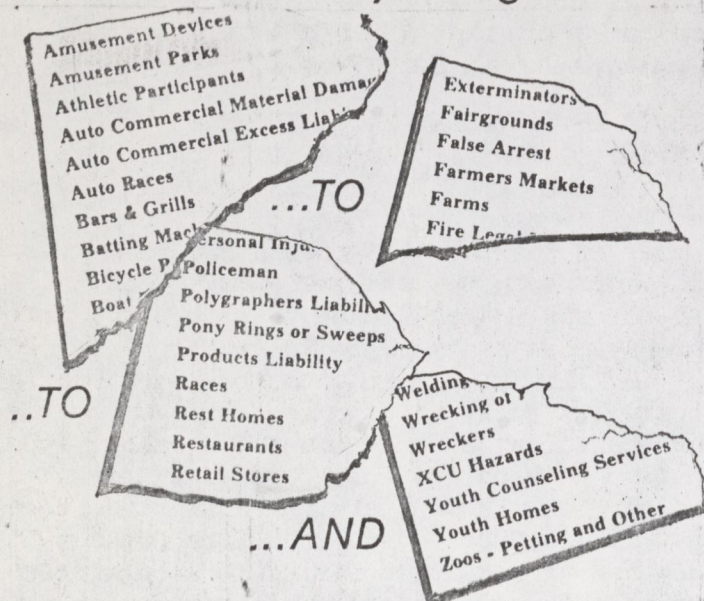
Still there, Darwin, California?

- EAGLE

For more information about EAGLE, its beliefs, aims and goals, address enquiries to EAGLE, P.O. Box 1776, Bishop, Calif. 93514.

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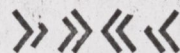
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...We'll be at the polls
to vote, along with a
lot of other concerned
Californians. It's an
important election.
See you there!

A public service message from
the folks at

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Hwy. 395 at Independence

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

he got it anyway from the board of supervisors. So far it appears that most of the county's developers are getting what they want in terms of zoning. The supervisors, sensitive to a recent census survey that implied Inyo Countians want "growth," remain sympathetic.

REMOTE DEATH VALLEY HAS A GROWING NUMBER of residents, many of them elderly or retired, who flock to the area to escape the cold of winter. The valley also plays host to an increasing number of tourists. Residents and tourists alike share a common problem; they sometimes fall ill, or get injured. When they do, they are turning more and more to volunteer workers that try to fill the gap in a doctor-less area that covers literally thousands of miles. Health-care-conscious Susan Mativo of Shoshone appeared last week before the board of supervisors and gave them some startling statistics based on a 1977 medical survey: "60% reported that they had at some time failed to secure needed medical attention because of distance to the nearest doctor...and/or to the nearest hospital. What do Mativo's volunteers want from the board? Not money, not at least for now, but for "official" support of her proposal: Mativo and others have formed a non-profit corporation to build a community-oriented health care system, Death Valley Service Area, Inc. Such an organization might become eligible for federal or state funding now that it has board approval. Programs stressing preventive medicine top the list.

(More NEWS BRIEFS on Page 7)

VOTE
JUNE 6

YES, LET'S DO "GET BACK
TO BASICS'...."



...back to a fully-democratic, truly representative county government from our Board of Supervisors. No more special interests; because we can't afford it. I want - and I'm sure you do too - more efficient and responsive government that will quit wasting money on red tape and non-essentials. To get it, we'll need real leadership.

I think a lot of people feel that government is out of hand; that the leaders are playing favorites and no longer listening to the people.

I CAN HELP CHANGE THINGS, but on June 6 I'll need your vote.

ROGER GLIDDEN
FOR SUPERVISOR,
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I want to help move the Inyo County government in new and positive directions, based on simple Common Sense.

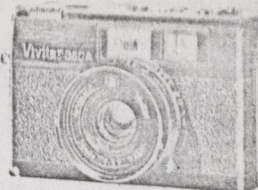
NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

LAST WEEK'S CALIFORNIA MEDIA SURVEY indicated a new, strong surge of popularity for the Jarvis-Gann Amendment. Controversial Proposition 13 had already been strong in central and northern California areas, and now it seems, the southland has moved more solidly behind it. In the Los Angeles area, polls showed Jarvis leading by a hefty 31% - and in populous San Fernando Valley, the poll results were even more eye-opening: There among the suburbanites, the for-Jarvis group outnumbers opponents almost three-to-one. Why? Replied one valley homeowner: "Very simple. They've raised my taxes almost 300% in the past two years." But Jarvis is not so popular among blue-collar and minority groups in the southland; they tend to believe government's warnings that jobs will be cut back if Jarvis passes. Meanwhile, in Inyo County, local candidates working their districts "door-to-door" report that voters here strongly favor Proposition 13. Any statistics? "No. But it looks like the majority wants it to pass," said one candidate who asked not to be quoted.

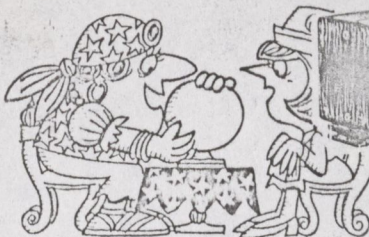
UNION CARBIDE OFFICIALS, blushing collectively over the most recent acid-spill from their Bishop plant, tell newsmen they want the public to "understand their side of the incident," but argue that their lawyers won't let them "talk much for the record." What they will say, however, is that the company has put more than \$40,000 into repairs and security measures against any further mishaps. Union Carbide's law-

(More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 10)

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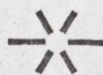
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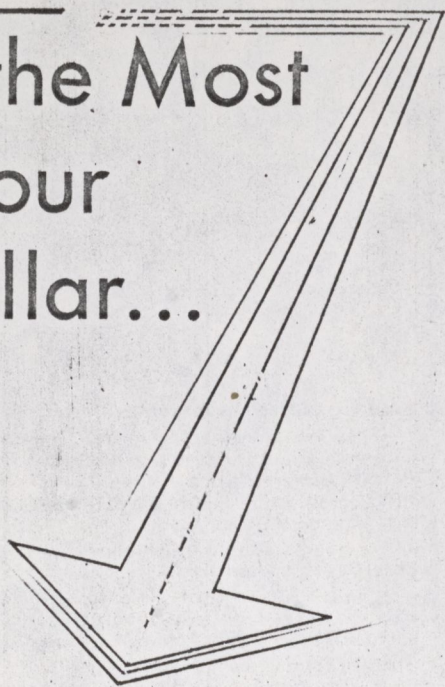
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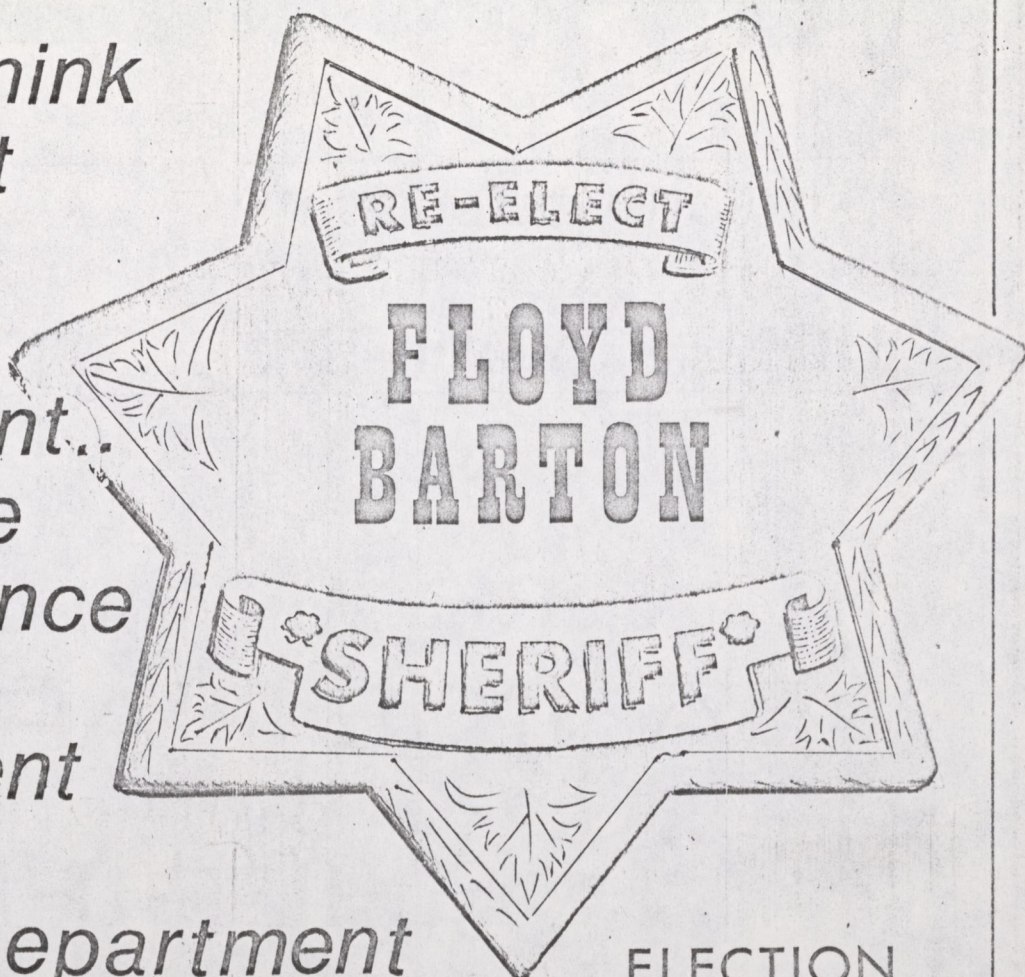
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ELECTION
JUNE 6

WHY?

WHY ARE SO MANY CITIZENS UNHAPPY
WITH OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ?

WHY ARE SO MANY LONG-TIME
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RESIGNING ?

WHY SO MUCH CONTROVERSY IN OUR
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE ?

WHY DID OUR COUNTY BUDGET INCREASE
BY 23.8% - \$9,524,000 TO
\$11,936,000 - LAST YEAR ?

WHY NOT ELECT H.B. "LEFTY" IRWIN
TO OFFICE TO CORRECT SOME OF
THESE COSTLY PROBLEMS ?

Irwin is under no obligation to any private or special
interests - including DWP

12 years is long enough. Let's make a change.

VOTE ☒ JUNE 6 FOR

H.B. 'LEFTY' IRWIN

Candidate for
SUPERVISOR,
District #1

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

yers have meanwhile entered a plea of "no contest" to charges by the California Department of Fish & Game, and the company's directors have set about to right any wrongs brought about by the acid that poured steadily for hours down Pine Creek. Residents along Pine Creek below the Union Carbide plant - the "Forty Acres" area - are getting their ponds cleaned, and fish killed by the acid are being replaced by the company. Another hearing on the F&G charges has been set for July 12. But even that may not end UC's troubles with official agencies; the Lahontan Water Board has turned its findings over to the state attorney general.

HOW GREEN INDEED WAS OUR VALLEY, SPRING OF '78. But now fire officials are fearful that as the green turns yellow and brown, fire danger increases rapidly. State officials, using the 1961 season as their "standard" (Year of the famed Bel-Aire fire), see the situation for 1978 as that bad. Official agencies charged with suppression of Inyo's fires also expect a record year for tourists and campers who may, or may not, respond seriously to an increased media and billboard campaign urging fire safety precautions. "Smokey" may be weeping still more TV tears before the '78 season is over.

SOME OF INYO'S SUPERVISORS ONCE STAUNCHLY DEFENDED the Dean Knight Mobile home development at Big Pine - even against recommendations of the Planning Commission which went so far as to

suggest that the supervisors' defense may have been prompted by personal, or conflict of, interest. But the Knight-supervisors honeymoon appeared last week to be over. With public opposition to Knight's restaurant-lounge complex's liquor license, and opposition that appears to be on the increase, at least one of the concerned supervisors has reversed an earlier position. At a public hearing, Supervisor Wilma Muth told an audience that she had been "duped." Dean Knight rose after the "duped" remarks and replied cryptically: "I'll be glad to tell you all I know about Wilma Muth," but there he let it hang, going no further. Meanwhile a Bishop attorney, Leland Bray, called reporters with an I-told-you-so statement. "I appeared before the board a year ago," said Bray, "and warned them that they were not following proper procedures (in this case, an environmental impact report consideration) on the Knight development. But in any case, the hearing at Big Pine turned into a plus for the developer: His controversial recreation club at the development apparently will get its liquor license and will be open to the public for a year - and then will revert, as Knight wishes - to private club status; all this if Knight gets not only the county's okay for a license, which he has, but also the approval of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. In the supervisory voting that approved the license, the voting went 3-2. Muth and London voted no.

(More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 11)

RE-ELECT WILMA MUTH

your full-time SUPERVISOR



Wilma Muth - "She knows...She cares."

- * does listen to
her constituents
- * does work for
the taxpayer
- * does strive for
efficient and re-
sponsive local
government

VOTE JUNE 6 - SUPERVISOR, DIST. 3

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

MEANWHILE, SUPERVISOR MUTH WANTED A FURTHER clearing of the air in the Knight issue. She made a public request that Inyo's grand jury appear at a June 6 meeting of the board of supervisors and read for public consumption all of the jury's findings in the matter. It was a request that may indicate a nothing-to-hide position on Muth's part, but not one likely to bring about an actual appearance of the jury. As the stormy week drew to a close, Jury Foreman Ray Williamson said such an appearance on the part of the jurors is "out of the question." He said the jurors "don't have a report yet...It's in the final stages...and, anyway, it must then go to Judge (Verne) Summers to be okayed, then back to the jury for final approval, then to the board and the public." Williamson said the jury's report should be ready for public release "in about two weeks." He offered no details, but the foreman hinted to reporters that "It will be a very interesting report to a lot of people."

DWP MAY BE TAKING A SLOW APPROACH TO METER Inyo's private water users. Early announcements of the metering proposal were met with more than a little public opposition and a scheduled May installation was apparently postponed. DWP still faces another public hearing on the environmental impact of such metering before it can proceed. By far the majority of Inyo Countians, pondering the loss of green lawns, stand firmly against the Los Angeles plan.

COSTLY PLAN, Continued

package, by now half-completed, for maybe the cost of \$100 a month and one new secretary."

But last week, the board of supervisors had no opportunity to deal with such happy figures. In the first place, an associate planner recently hired cannot be listed as a "temporary employee," but must be hired as a full-time worker - complete with all the benefits. That news was just for starters. The true figures were grim:

A former planning technician with the planning department is Kit Birmingham of Big Pine, and he provided an update on costs:

As the county officials have now set up their General Plan project, the new employees and additional office space may run as high, or higher, than \$100,000. "If they had decided to contract out for the update of the plan, the cost would probably have run only fifty or sixty thousand dollars," said Birmingham. But apparently no one was listening when Birmingham and other former employees suggested their do-it-ourselves program - or the contract idea.

The supervisors voted on the issue some weeks ago. Supervisor Wilma Muth had originally suggested the contract idea, but changed her mind, and the board, 3-2, decided to keep the job in the planning department - Supervisors McDonald and Johnson, voting against it.

The costs could run even higher if the supervisors follow through on a proposal to expand office space to accommodate the demands

(COSTLY PLAN continued, P 11)

IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO MAKE, JUNE 6

Are we 'helping' people - or hurting them?

Americans are a generous people. Last year, they gave 30 billion dollars to charitable causes and institutions - not counting what they gave through taxation to welfare and welfare-related projects. Until recently, the American people were happy to do this since they have always had a wish to respond to genuine need.

But enough is enough. They've found that government uses their money to buy votes - and they've discovered something else; that the "hand-out" may help the beggar in the short run - but only creates more beggars in the long run. If you don't believe it, look at the figures: Our taxes and giveaways are increasing - and so are our ghettos. Meanwhile, the source of our wealth, the free-enterprise system, is suffering badly; crumbling away. And government is using our own money to weaken us and enslave us. We're killing the goose that lays the Golden Egg.

June 6 is an important day for the people of Inyo County, and for all Californians. Once again, we have a very real opportunity to change things. It is no day to sit at home and "let someone else do it." It is important that you, as a citizen, exercise your right - your duty - to make your voice heard. Make sure you go vote, and let's try to return government to the hands of the people who produce and who pay the bills. Let's quit creating more beggars.

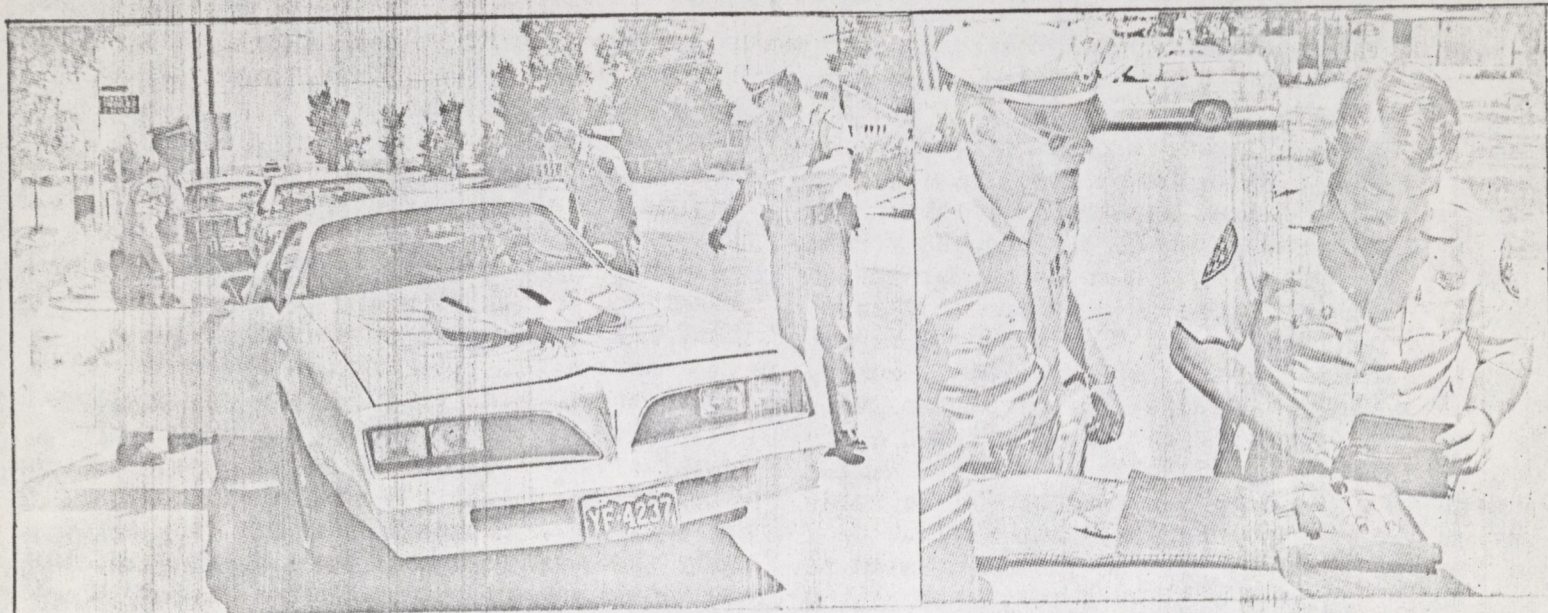
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by a concerned Inyo County business firm:*

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HIGHWAY PATROL DRUG BUST



INYO'S "CHIPS" AT WORK

At end of chase: Sgt. Harvey Ferguson, Patrolmen Doug Manning and Alan George

ALL OVER FOR DOPE SUSPECTS IN 100-PLUS CHASE

AFTER A FAST RUN IN HEAVY TRAFFIC, OFFICERS SEIZE HEROIN, COCAINE, MARIJUANA AND BARBITURATES

LEAVING BEHIND THEM A TRAIL OF IRATE, FRIGHT-ened motorists (some of whom placed calls to Highway Patrol officers), two San Diego narcotics suspects sped northward on Highway 395 "passing five and seven cars at a time," but were finally stopped by Highway Patrolmen at Independence. As 27-year-old Driver Larry Broyles and his passenger Jerry May, 28, awaited

transport to jail, the officer found quantities of hard drugs and, perhaps more significantly, a list of names they believe to be a list of drug buyers.

Late in the weekend the two suspects remained in jail at Independence, their bail of \$5,000 each unpaid. Theirs was the "eighth or "ninth" drug arrest on the Highway recently.

'privilege...duty'

The management and staff of this radio station think the 1978 election year is an important one; that the people of Inyo County and Californians everywhere face some important issues on which they should express their feelings.... All decisions, finally, rest with the people. "The vote" is their only true voice.

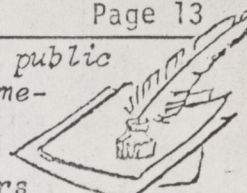
We urge you to go to the polls and be heard on June 6. It is your right, your privilege - and your duty as an American.

KIOQ FM 100 Bishop

The best in local and worldwide news coverage for the Eastern Sierra. Good music always. For complete, on-the-spot election night coverage of latest election returns, dial FM 100.

NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to public issues. The editors will publish those considered timely and with viewpoints concisely stated. Most likely

to be published are those of 200 words or less. Letters or statements should be addressed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind their readers that publication of a letter does not in any way imply that the editors agree with its view.



PROPOSITION 13: THE SCARE TACTICS OF ITS OPPONENTS

Editor:

I, as a long-time resident of Bishop, have been interested and concerned about legislative action that pertains to us locally or nationally.

Proposition 13 has unleashed a hornet's nest, as I am sure most of your readers are aware. However, I am appalled at the actions of some of the teachers regarding Proposition 13.

My children, 8, 11, 14, and 16, are bringing home stories of doom from their teachers whom we have entrusted our children to. Listening to the stories carried home by my children leads me to believe that the teachers are poorly informed on this matter, at best. Possibly, it is in the transmission.

I have the utmost confidence in our local school system, but do take exception to the fact that the teachers, paid by the taxpayers, are utilizing educational time of the children to politic for or against any specific item or person. Possibly if the teachers would spend more time teaching and less time politicking, they could cut the "fat" with little or no effect.

Hitler created a strong and devastating force by "getting to" the youth of Germany. Let us not attempt to brainwash these highly impressionable youth of our country, but teach properly by giving both sides in an unbiased manner.

We, as citizens, cannot allow this type of activity by our teachers - as next time it might be against the Country, home - or even Mom and Apple Pie !

- Mac Davis
Bishop

The News-Letter:

You'd think "Sr. Citizens" were brainwashed - no sense at all. Let them think for themselves. Most of them are well-read, "informed" and "up-and-at-them." They aren't dummies. Let them keep the little "dab" they sent out in money. "The tax board notice" was also sent to us, the "Older Citizens," who are taken advantage of and misguided and it's a shame some poor nut has to publish junk. No one is required by law to scare people. Here is what we got from the state franchise board:

"The reason for the delay (of senior citizen tax benefits) is that the specific benefits available to senior citizens claimants will not be determined until the election results are known, inasmuch as the new table of benefits ...will not be in effect unless Proposition 8 is approved and Proposition 13 is rejected in the June 6 election."

I hope the senior citizens who vote will know what to do. I think the tax franchise board should let us make up our own minds.

We are quite capable of thinking for ourselves.

- Jeanette Warrick
President, Original
Senior Citizens of
Bishop

(Editors' note: It is clear that the opponents of Proposition 13 (mostly the officeholders spoiled by free and easy use of tax dollars) are in a panic. For the first time in years they are reminded that they are the servants, not the masters, of the people. Ironically, the Proposition 13 opponents had some good points to make - until they began some weeks ago to use "official" notices, such as the one submitted by Reader Warrick, to frighten voters. NEWS-LETTER was only last week notified, for instance, that if Proposition 13 passes, then the only course left for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is to close its doors! NEWS-LETTER feels that such tactics used by bureaucrats and even educators has done much to convince the California voters to vote "Yes" on Proposition 13, or at least to convince them that should Proposition 13 fail, then government officials may feel they once again have the permission, or even a mandate, to spend as they wish. Having personally observed, and reported on, the recent costly foolishness in the Inyo County courthouse and in the school systems, the editors of NEWS-LETTER feel they are left little choice other than to vote "Yes" on 13. The editors find themselves mildly amused at Inyo's officials and their weak attempts to frighten us. The people of this county, having reasserted their control, will not tolerate very much any "reduction of services or personnel," but they will certainly demand an increase in efficiency and common sense and the end of the pervasive stupidities that of late have cost this county a lot of money.)

"THE DUKE" AND HIS BOOK: A CRITIQUE FROM LITTLE LAKE

To the editors:

As a working mother, there were so many seemingly more important things to take up the little time I had at home with my sons...than teaching them about their Creator and love for America, attending Cub Scout and Boy Scout activities.

I did take them swimming and attended some of their Little League ball games. Two have left the earthly scene, so it is a little late now.

But for those who have children which they hope will learn about responsibility and love of country...and this is a parents' job (teachers share in this beautiful opportunity) ...but parents don't leave it to the teachers.

(See FORUM on the next page)

FORUM, Continued

I found a beautiful book in the public library by John Wayne and others: *America, Why I Love Her*.

This book puts a lot of things in proper perspective both for parents and children. It is in large print, short, and filled with pictures and music.

It says so beautifully that which I would like to have said to my own sons. I wonder if the trends toward unrest among our young people hasn't been because we parents fell short in teaching our young about America and our Creator who made America possible, a great nation offering freedom to people from all over the world, as long as we teach our young to keep it that way.

The book is published by Simon and Shuster, New York. \$8.95.

- Pat McClendon
Little Lake

COSTLY PLAN, Continued

for space and more help, made by Director Sherburne. The supervisors are toying with the idea of buying the former Title Insurance Building across the street from the courthouse at Independence. The idea was to allow other departments out of the county annex and into the TI Building, and permit Planning to spread out. Another option was considered: Rent space for the planning workers.

Birmingham, who worked closely with the department in a key position, said in effect that he saw much delay and procrastination on the General Plan project. "And now," he said, "the update is costing two new employees, a secretary, and office space."

The question, now academic and perhaps speculative, arises as to whether the original staff could in fact have completed the general plan. Sherburne is, and has been, firm in his doubts. Says Birmingham: "Two of the staff members are graduate planners. Scruggs had already done a plan, since she knows the procedure. The staff definitely could have done it."

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NEWS-LETTER VACATION (?)

Barring events or happenings of more than usual interest, the NEWS-LETTER staff plans to take a week's vacation, and the issue for the week of June 5 will not appear. We plan to return to our regular schedule on June 12.

eastern sierra news service

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